



---

## **PRESS RELEASE**

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Monday, March 28, 2005

For Information Contact Public Affairs  
SANDY RAYNOR  
Telephone: (602) 514-7625  
Cell: (602) 525-2681

### **FORMER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND SPOUSE SENTENCED ON FEDERAL CHARGES**

TUCSON, Ariz. -- Febronio Steven Munoz, 51, and his spouse, Emily O. Munoz, 50, both formerly of Tucson, Ariz., were sentenced here today U.S. District Judge Frank R. Zapata. Steven Munoz, was sentenced to 30 months in prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release, for four counts of Theft from an Organization Receiving Federal Funds and one count of Filing a False Federal Income Tax Return for 2000. Emily Munoz was sentenced to two years supervised probation and ordered to perform 720 hours of community service for two counts of Filing a False Federal Income Tax Return for 1999 and 2000. Steven Munoz was also ordered to pay \$615,000 in restitution to the Metropolitan Area Narcotics Trafficking Interdiction Squad (MANTIS) for the monies he embezzled from it during his tenure as a Tucson Police Officer assigned to MANTIS. Both Steven and Emily Munoz were ordered to cooperate with the Internal Revenue Service in paying back taxes, interest and civil penalties owed.

On December 17, 2003, a federal grand jury in Tucson, Ariz., returned a 32-count indictment against Steven Munoz and a 10-count indictment against his spouse, Emily Munoz. On September 22, 2004, both defendants pleaded guilty to the charges listed in the sentencing statement above. In the written plea agreements, Steven Munoz admitted that he had previously been employed by the Tucson Police Department and had been detailed to MANTIS where his duties included seizing property involved in the possession of, and trafficking in, narcotics, including large amounts of currency while serving as a forfeiture officer of the Financial Remedies Squad.

Steven Munoz admitted in his written plea agreement that from October 1997 until April 2001, he embezzled approximately \$615,000 in currency seized in 56 cases where he was the forfeiture officer or an assisting officer. Munoz retired from Tucson Police Department shortly after his superiors at MANTIS commenced an audit of the forfeiture files to determine why deposits of numerous currency seizures into the MANTIS account at the City of Tucson Collections Department had not occurred.

-MORE-

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by the FBI, the Criminal Investigations Division of the Internal Revenue Service, and officers of the Pima County Sheriff's Office and the Tucson Police Department. The prosecution was handled by Danny N. Roetzel, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR 03-2504-1-TUC-FRZ(CRP)  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2005-060

# # #